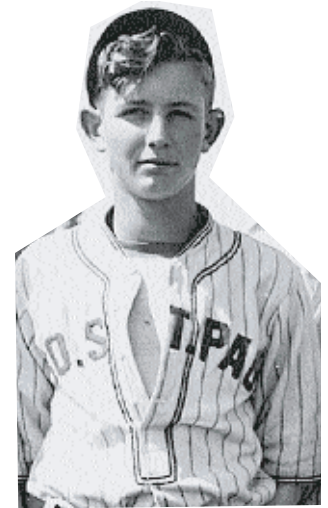




# American Legion Minnesota Division I Tournament

# Gazette



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## Lightning strikes often in longest game

By John Sherman

In a game of rallies and counter rallies Friday at Braemar Park, Eastview outlasted Chester Bird post 13-9 in 13 innings.

Chester Bird took a 9-7 lead with six runs in the bottom of the eighth inning, but Eastview clawed back with two runs in the top of the ninth, and the game went into extra innings.

"We have battled back all year," said Eastview head coach Evan Klefsaas. "We were able to scratch out two runs in the top of the ninth."

"We did the same thing against Eagan in the Sub-State tournament," said assistant coach Erik Klefsaas, Evan's younger brother.

When it was all over, there were 33 hits in

the game, 22 of them by Eastview.

"With this team, we're never out of a game," said Evan Klefsaas. "In the eight years, this is the longest game we ever played."

Surprisingly, it was not the most hits Eastview ever had in a State Tournament game. The Lightning put 23 hits on the board during a

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## FL's Gravelle singles home winner

By John Sherman

Brett Gravelle of Forest Lake broke a scoreless tie in the bottom of the tenth inning to give his team a 1-0 victory over Edina Friday afternoon at Braemar Park.

Edina center fielder Danny Baer ran full-

speed for the ball and almost made a spectacular catch, but the line drive hit in front of him and skipped all the way to the fence.

"He [Edina pitcher Harrison Egly] threw me one right down the middle," said Gravelle, whose winning hit came with two outs. "I was looking for a fastball middle-in."

Gravelle added that he was happy to provide the winning run for teammate Phil Sauer, who pitched a complete-game three-hitter.

"Phil pitched a great game," he said. "When

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## Four undefeated in 1st day's action

Burnsville, Eden Prairie, Rochester Patriots and Forest Lake went undefeated in the first day of action of the Division I American Legion Baseball Tournament in Edina.

Eight other teams split their first two games: St. Cloud Chutes, Alexandria, Eastview, Mahtomedi, Grand Rapids, Excelsior, Osseo and Edina will begin

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Phil Sauer threw a ten-inning three-hitter to lead Forest Lake to a victory.

## \*\*\*Stars of the Day\*\*\*

**Kent Curran** Eden Prairie hit a three-run homer during his team's 11-run third inning in a 13-1 victory over St. Francis.

**Ryan Heisler** of Eastview went four-for-six with three runs scored in a 13-9, 13-inning win over Chester Bird Post of Golden Valley.

**Billy Hammann** of Grand Rapids drove in five runs with a three-for-four performance in a 12-5 victory over Cold Spring.

**Tyler Hanson** of Burnsville pitched a three-hitter in the Cobras' 3-0 first-round victory over Alexandria.

**Phil Sauer** of Forest Lake shut out Edina 1-0 in 10 innings in a first-round game.

**Brett Gravelle** lined a single to center field

to give Forest Lake its 1-0 victory over Edina.

**Grant Sealock** of Osseo had a three-for-four day in a 6-4 victory over Mahtomedi.

**Matthew Hopfner** of Edina went three-for-four in a 9-4 victory over Chester Bird (Benilde).

**Bjorn Hansen** of Excelsior hit a home run and picked up the win in relief as the Fire Club defeated New Ulm Gold 5-4 in 10 innings.

**Jack Kall** of the Rochester Patriots threw a complete game to blank the St. Cloud Chutes 2-0 in a winners' bracket contest at Richfield High School.

# Leadoff man Dresel wins 1st home run derby

By John Sherman

Home Run Derby was a new addition to the State American Legion Tournament this year, thanks to the Edina host committee and sponsors General Sports and DeMarini Bats.

Dylan Dresel of Forest Lake wasn't the biggest man in the contest, but as it turned out, he was the most efficient home run hitter. Dresel hit 13 bombs to edge Burnsville's Tyler Hanson, a University of Minnesota recruit, who finished with 12. Eden Prairie's Luke Lind was third with 10 homers.

Dresel, who hits in the leadoff spot for Forest Lake, said, "I just wanted to get good pitches and make good swings."

Forest Lake had a preliminary contest to see which player would swing in the Home Run Derby, and Dresel won.

"In a home run contest, I try to take more of an uppercut swing," said Dresel. "I am not necessarily a home run hitter. I have hit only one homer this so far this season."

Despite finishing third in the home run contest, EP's Lind had the satisfaction of hitting the longest home run, which was measured at 390 feet.

"I enjoyed it," he said. "All of the best power hitters in the state are here."



Taking good swings at good pitches won the home run derby for Dylan Dresel.

## Longest game

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win over Edina in 2009.

Ryan Heisler was Eastview's catalyst with four hits in six at-bats. He scored three runs and drove in one.

"Ryan has been on base all year," said Eastview head coach Evan Klefsaas. "He almost always hits the ball hard. I wish I had 12 just like him."

While Heisler is a key man, he is certainly not the only Eastview player who can swing the bat. Cory McDevitt and Derek Schiebel each added four hits against Chester Bird and Rhett Hebig had three.

Eastview used four pitchers in the opener, including reliever Patrick Strey, who tossed five scoreless innings to earn the win.

Pitchers on both sides were able to make big pitches when they needed them. Eastview left 16 runners on base while Chester Bird left 15.

## Gravelle hits winner

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he struck out the side in the top of the tenth, it pumped us up. I knew he didn't have many innings left, so we went out in the tenth to get the win for him."

Mitch "Moose" Larson pitched a four-hitter over nine innings for Edina. Mark Handberg hit two balls that carried to the warning track, both balls were hauled in by Forest Lake outfielders.

Gravelle said Forest Lake is a team that rises to the occasion in close games.

"I've played a lot of close ones during the high school season," said Gravelle.



Eden Prairie clean-up hitter Kent Curran accepts congratulations following his three-run homer in a 13-1 first-round victory over St. Francis Friday morning.



Brett Gravelle knocks in the winning run vs. Edina in Friday action.

## First day action

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Saturday in the losers' bracket of the double-elimination tournament.

And four teams went home after the first day: Cold Spring, St. Francis, New Ulm and Chester Bird.

Action continues today at Braemar Park and Eden Prairie.

The unbeatens will face off at 4 and 7 p.m. at Braemar, with Burnsville playing Eden Prairie in the first tilt, and Rochester Patriots and Forest Lake in the later game.

In other games, St. Cloud will play Alexandria at 10 a.m. and Grand Rapids will play Excelsior at 1 p.m. at Braemar. Eastview will play Mahtomedi at 10 a.m. and Osseo will play Edina at 1 p.m. at Eden Prairie.

The tournament will continue through Monday with the championship games at Braemar Park. The first and second place teams will advance to the National Regionals at Fargo, N.D. The World Series is in Shelby, N.C.

In Division II action at Bird Island, Morris topped Winnebago/Blue Earth 7-4, Taconite topped Pine Island 4-0, LaCrescent defeated Hawley, 9-5, and Providence beat host Bird Island 4-3.

# Game summaries for the first day

## Game 1

**Cold Spring** 000 040 001 5 8 1

**Grand Rapids** 420 012 03x 12 14 1

Hennen, Schlangen (4) and Athmann. Gessell, Hammann (6) and Frazier. WP Gessell. LP Hennen.

Two-run doubles in the first inning by Billy Hammann and Zach Frazier propelled Grand Rapids to a 12-5 win over Cold Spring at Eden Prairie's Round Lake Stadium. Hammann finished with five RBI on three hits in five at-bats. Frazier drove in four runs. Sam Schlangen led Cold Spring with two hits.

## Game 2

**Burnsville** 010 000 011 3 9 2

**Alexandria** 000 000 000 0 3 2

T. Hanson and Traetow. Stockert and P. Leary. WP T. Hanson. LP Stockert.

Burnsville's Tyler Hanson pitched a three-hit shutout to hand Alex's Blake Stockert (8-1) his first loss of the season. Eric Watters had two hits for Burnsville, while Ben Allen had two hits for Alex.

## Game 3

**St. Francis** 010 000 0 1 6 5

**Eden Prairie** 01(11) 100 x 13 13 0

Niemeyer, Blauers (4) and Duncan. Lind, Parrish (5) and Graen, Claeys (5). WP Lind, LP Niemeyer. Home run: Kent Curran, Eden Prairie.

Eden Prairie's 11-run explosion in the bottom of the third inning doused St. Francis' hopes in a first-round game at Chanhassen High School. The biggest hit of that inning was a three-run homer by Eden Prairie clean-up hitter Kent Curran.

## Game 4

**Osseo** 200 011 200 6 10 2

**Mahtomedi** 000 120 100 4 5 1

Ludwig, Ball (6), B. Johnson (9) and Lyons. M. Baumann, Tierney (6) and Erickson. WP Ludwig. LP M. Baumann.

Grant Sealock led Osseo to victory with three hits in four at-bats, while Jon Ludwig picked up the win on the mound.

## Game 5

**Rochester Patriots** 011 021 031 9 12 2

**New Ulm Gold** 000 000 200 2 4 5

Schwieters, Halverson (8) and Brady. Meyer, Dove (6) and Kannegiesser. WP Schwieters. LP Meyer.

The Rochester Patriots beat New Ulm Gold behind the pitching of Zach Schwieters. Five errors led to New Ulm Gold's demise. Sam Aakre, Jake Halverson, Alex Brady and Jake Dravis each had two hits for the Patriots. Chase Meyer had two hits for New Ulm Gold.

## Game 6

**Excelsior** 000 103 010 5 8 1

**St. Cloud Chutes** 402 010 00x 7 11 1

Langheinrich, Amundson (7) and Cote. Fasching, Austing (8) and Imholte. WP Fasching. LP Langheinrich.

The St. Cloud Chutes jumped to a 4-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning and held off a late Excelsior charge. Winning pitcher Jeff Fasching and Brian Minks each had three hits for the Chutes. Bjorn Hansen went three-for-four with three doubles for Excelsior.

## Game 7

**Eastview** 100 050 102 000 4 13 22 5

**Chester Bird** 001 010 160 000 0 9 11 0

Martinson, Bechstein (8), Wobschall (8), Strey (9) and Hebig. Heck, Barone (5), Kaminski (12) and Barone, McDonald (5). WP Strey, LP Kaminski.

One of the longest games in State Tournament history finally ended after 4 hours and 11 minutes as Eastview beat Chester Bird 13-9 in 13 innings Friday morning (and afternoon) at Braemar Park in Edina. Eastview pounded 22 hits, including four each by Ryan Heisler, Cole McDevitt and Derek Schiebel. Shortstop Keaton Studsrud had four hits for Chester Bird.

## Game 8

**Edina** 000 000 000 0 0 3 0

**Forest Lake** 000 000 000 1 1 6 0

Larson, H. Egly (10) and Michael Grove. Sauer and Fandel. WP Sauer. LP H. Egly.

Brett Gravelle's single in the bottom of the tenth inning gave Forest Lake a 1-0 victory over Edina in a first-round game at Braemar Park. Catcher Beau Fandel of Forest Lake was the only player with two hits. Phil Sauer pitched a three-hit shutout to boost his season record to 7-0.

## Game 9

**Cold Spring** 201 001 000 00 4 4 0

**Alexandria** 020 000 200 01 5 13 3

Pfannenstein, Dingmann (11) and TeBrake. Backhaus, Parker (8), Bowden (8) and P. Leary. WP Bowden. LP Pfannenstein. Parker Bowden pitched three and two-thirds innings of one-hit relief to secure the victory as he improved to 5-0 on the season. His single in the 11<sup>th</sup> inning scored Beau Backhaus with the winning run.

## Game 10

**Grand Rapids** 000 011 110 4 10 4

**Burnsville** 301 201 10x 8 7 1

G. Carlisle, Shephard (3), Frazier (5), Stram (7), Holum (8) and A. Carlisle. Rozek, L. Hansen (8), Smith (9) and Traetow. WP Rozek. LP G. Carlisle.

Burnsville first baseman Bo Hellquist drove in three runs and teammate Tyler Hill had two hits. Hunter Shepard had three hits for Grand Rapids.

## Game 11

**Mahtomedi** 102 000 001 4 9 1

**St. Francis** 000 000 001 1 6 3

Hjelle and Noel. Niemeyer, Bauermeister (8) and Duncan. WP Hjelle. LP Niemeyer.

Sean Hjelle's six-hit pitching helped Mahtomedi stay alive in the State Tournament. Dylan Kleissler, Brandon Goodwin and Colin Baumgard had three hits each for the winners.

## Game 12

**Eden Prairie** 101 002 102 7 12 1

**Osseo** 000 000 100 1 4 0

Curran, Choles (7), Phillips (8) and Graen. B. Johnson, Botzet (7) and Lyons. WP Curran. LP B. Johnson.

Eden Prairie moved into the winners' bracket semifinals with a decisive victory over Osseo. Michael Blauert and Luke Lind each had three hits for Eden Prairie. The winning pitcher was Kent Curran.

## Game 13

**New Ulm Gold** 003 000 001 0 4 6 5

**Excelsior** 000 310 000 1 5 8 2

Kluis, Dewanz (7) and Kannegiesser, Palmer (7). Martinson, Hansen (9) and Cote. WP Hansen. LP Dewanz. Home run: Bjorn Hansen, Excelsior.

Excelsior catcher Ian Cote delivered the game-winning single with one out in the bottom of the tenth. Winning pitcher Bjorn Hansen hit a home run for the Fire Club.

## Game 14

**Rochester Patriots** 100 000 010 2 8 1

**St. Cloud Chutes** 000 000 000 0 8 3

Kall and Brady. Theisen and Imholte. WP Kall. LP Theisen.

Jack Kall of the Rochester Patriots and Brindley Theisen of the St. Cloud Chutes both pitched complete game eight-hitters. Sam Aakre scored Rochester's first run on a throwing error, and then Kall singled home the second run. Brian Minks led the Chutes with four hits.

## Game 15

**Chester Bird** 101 000 000 4 14 1

**Edina** 000 101 07x 9 14 0

Cron, McGill (8) and MacDonald. H. Egly and Michael Grove. WP H. Egly. LP Cron.

Edina broke the game open with seven runs in the bottom of the eighth inning. Spencer Egly led Edina's attack with a four-for-four performance and three RBI. Matthew Hopfner was three-for-four for Edina. Keaton Studsrud and Jimmy Heck each had three hits for Chester Bird, which finished the season 22-11.

## Game 16

**Forest Lake** 131 201 010 9 13 1

**Eastview** 001 000 010 1 7 3

Brown, Dahly (8) and Fandel. Frederickson, J. Johnson (2), Voss (5), Selchow (7) and McDevitt.

Forest Lake forged ahead in the winners' bracket with a decisive win over Eastview Friday at Braemar Park. Noah Brown went eight innings to record the win on the mound. Brown, Dylan Dresel, Beau Fandel, Grayson Stout and Alex Egle had two hits each for Forest Lake. Ryan Heisler and Derek Schiebel had two hits each for Eastview.